

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Office Action dated November 29, 2005 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

Claims 1–15 are currently pending. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 1–15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,995,084 to Chan et al. (hereinafter “Chan”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,611,257 to Dotson et al. (hereinafter “Dotson”).

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of independent claim 1 and requests reconsideration. Independent claim 1 is allowable in that it recites “a sensor for automatically *detecting the interface integrated circuit* connected to the computer system.” Nothing in Chan and Dotson, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. The Examiner cites the analog switching matrix (element 104) of Dotson as teaching this feature of the claimed invention. Applicant respectfully disagrees. The function of the analog switching matrix is “to automatically determine the touch screen type to which [touch screen interface circuit 100] is connected. This can be accomplished by sensing the impedance characteristics of the touch screen.” (Col. 6, ll. 58–61). Applicant respectfully asserts that “detecting the interface integrated circuit” is patentably distinct from “sensing the impedance characteristics of the touch screen.” Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1, and its dependent claims 2–9, are allowable over any combination of Chan and Dotson.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of independent claim 10 and requests reconsideration. Independent claim 10 is allowable in that it recites “*sensing an interface integrated circuit* connected to a computer system among at least two interface integrated circuits.” Nothing in Chan and Dotson, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. Accordingly, for the same or similar reasons as those regarding claim 1, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 10, and its dependent claims 11–15, are allowable over any combination of Chan and Dotson.


Applicant believes the foregoing arguments place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Dated: February 22, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

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